Ute Indian Rehabilitation Program Gains Momentum As 116 Participate

A total of 55 families of mixed blood Indians comprising 116 individuals have participated in the voluntary relocation and training program as part of the Indian rehabilitation plan disclosed John O Crow, superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Agency early this week

Participating in the two year old program at present are 39 families with a total of 83 persons

Moral Responsibility

Reporting on the progress made so far in carrying out the rehabilitation program provided under Public Law 671, Mr Crow said that the agency is concerned not only with the legal requirements of the law but also with the moral responsibilities not written

The law provides for the division of assets between the full blood and mixed blood Indians of the Uintah and Ouray reservations and for eventual termination of federal supervision of both groups and absorbing them into established communities

The division of assets already has been done and the Utes have been divided into the Ute Indian tribe comprised of the full bloods, and the Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah, comprised of the mixed bloods

Ends Supervision

Termination of federal supervision of the mixed bloods is scheduled within seven years

The full blood group will remain under supervision for a longer period until the bulk of the members feel they are capable of assuming responsibilities for their assets and taking their full places as citizens

This group is in the process of making a rehabilitation program for training its members

To train the mixed bloods to assume responsibilities in communities off the reservation, a two-point program has been adopted First it has set up the voluntary relocation and training program Second the agency has entered into a contract with the University of Utah to provide educational opportunities for the mixed blood group

Education

The organization is known as the Bureau of Indian Services Extension Division University of Utah This portion of the program is getting underway and will be begun in November last It is administered by Y T Witherspoon acting under the extension director Dean Harold Bentley Local administrators are Reed Hansen Vernal and Max Hartman Altamont

The function of the bureau is to provide vocational and educational opportunities for Utah Indians Both Utes and Piutes are in the process of being terminated from federal supervision

Unique

The University of Utah is the only institution in the United States that has a contract for educational services with the Bureau of Indian Affairs The program provides for on the spot training up to actual enrollment in Utah colleges

At present 28 mixed bloods are participating in the plan In addition nine students from Uintah and Ouray reservation are lined up to take university training this year, five to take vocational training, and two to attend business college